

REMARKS

Prior to further examination on the merits, applicants request entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1-31 were pending in the application, with claims 12-14, 22, and 24 being withdrawn. Withdrawn claims 12-14, 22, and 24 have been canceled and no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-11, 15-21, 23, and 25-31 are pending in the application and are submitted for consideration by the examiner.

If there are any questions regarding the application or if an examiner's amendment or an interview would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is courteously invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date November 19, 2002

By Aaron C. Chatterjee

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.